

Inquiry Seminar Topics Spring 2023

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The Danger of a Single Story

Emotional Intelligence

Making Monsters

Schooled: Perspectives on Global Education

A Woman's Place

"You Don't Say!" The Art of Nonverbal Communication

A Life of Calm in a Time of Chaos: Exploring Contemplation [Honors section]

Inquiry Seminar GES160

All sections of GES160 Inquiry Seminar explore a specific topic of interest while students 1) develop and understand the meaning and value of a liberal arts education in the Christian tradition, 2) establish community, and 3) learn and practice research, writing, and speaking skills.

Topic Descriptions

The Danger of a Single Story

Instructor: Abbey Payeur

Have you ever held a firm, seemingly unchangeable conviction about a topic, only to find yourself completely changing this view once you understood a different perspective? Inspired by the well-known TED talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, this course will explore the danger of having a "single story" or sole perspective on any given topic. Learn how to evaluate and appreciate multiple perspectives as you determine your views about politics, class, race, and social justice issues.

Emotional Intelligence

Instructor: Katie Friesen Smith

You've heard of IQ but have you heard of EQ? Emotional intelligence (EQ) is the ability to understand and manage your emotions and understand how those emotions impact others. Researchers suggest EQ is key to personal and career success. How do we learn to recognize or manage our emotions? How do we recognize what others are feeling? How are EQ skills visible in current events today? Did Jesus have EQ? In this course we'll explore the various layers of emotional intelligence.

A Life of Calm in a Time of Chaos: Exploring Contemplation [Honors Pietas Seminar I]

Instructor: April Vinding

When was the last time you took a deep breath? Must we—as modern people, Americans, evangelicals—"produce or die"? What are the costs and gifts of choosing "being" over "doing" in the age of information, technology, efficiency, and consumption? In this course we'll explore the genesis (both the origin and the way) of contemplation by gathering wisdom from across history and cultures, and by engaging in contemplative practices established by Christians across the ages. Local, off-campus activities will be required.

Making Monsters

Instructor: Heather McNiel

Monsters are having a moment: from nightmarish versions of zombies, to teenage vampires and werewolves, huge fan bases have been built around contemporary monster narratives. The fear and fascination monsters evoke may seem to be a recent phenomenon, but history is full of monster narratives that raise important questions of identity, community, and the complex moral choices humans face. Whether monsters are positioned as forces of evil, misunderstood outcasts, or warning

signs of human error, monster narratives help us to explore our ideals, our failings, and the forces that drive us to make, fight, and fall in love with monsters.

Schooled: Perspectives on Global Education

Instructor: Elisabeth Lefebvre

Ever wondered what schools look like in other countries? Ever wondered why becoming 'educated' takes so long? And what is the purpose of all this education anyway? In this course, you'll develop a deeper understanding of why and how we go to school, drawing on examples from around the globe. And in the process, learn more about your own school experiences and how they've shaped not only you, but also your community.

A Woman's Place

Instructor: Jennifer Manthey

Women in the church receive many messages about what biblical womanhood looks like. But which messages do we receive from the culture and society we are living within, and which messages come from God? What does it mean to live a life of faith as a woman? Is domesticity a requirement of Christian womanhood? In this class, we'll explore biblical, historical, and contemporary examples of women leading dynamic lives rooted in faith—and we'll celebrate their diversity. Both male and female students of this course will discover new role models and inspiration.

"You Don't Say": The Art of Nonverbal Communication

Instructor: Jessica Samens

As little as 20% of what we communicate comes through in the words we use. Students will be introduced to the field of nonverbal communication, becoming better equipped to read behaviors such as emotions, power, status, deception, flirting, and liking. We will also explore the way culture, structures, and even clothing influence the way we behave nonverbally.